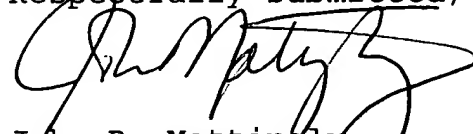


REMARKS

Claims 12, 14, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 12-20 are currently pending.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", is written over the typed name.

John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293

Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: January 7, 2004